

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Announces Inspection Results of North Libertyville Estates Levee

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed its periodic inspection of the North Libertyville Estates Levee and gave the overall system a rating of “Minimally Acceptable.” This rating indicates that the project is fully functional, and meets the designed level of protection; however, some maintenance is required. As a result of this rating, the North Libertyville Estates Levee system retains eligibility for federal rehabilitation assistance if it is damaged in a flood or storm event, and USACE will continue to provide flood-fighting assistance.

The North Libertyville Estates Levee is operated and maintained by the Lake County Public Works Department, and all maintenance items are being addressed by the Department. USACE inspections and assessments provide continuous feedback about levee systems and their reliability, and are a critical part of the Corps’ levee safety program. Routine inspections, conducted annually, focus on the operation and maintenance of the project and have consistently been minimally acceptable.

Last year, the Corps began a more in-depth evaluation of levees, called a periodic inspection. Under the new procedures, a Periodic Inspection will be conducted every five years and will include a more detailed, comprehensive and consistent evaluation of the condition of the levee system, including: verification of proper operation and maintenance, evaluation of operational adequacy, structural stability, and safety of the system. Additionally, the inspection compares current design and construction criteria with the standards that were in place when the levee was built.

Levee safety and communicating risk is a shared responsibility among federal, state, local and private partners, and is crucial so that individuals can make well-informed public-safety decisions and take appropriate action.

For additional inspection and criteria information and the executive summaries of the inspection reports, contact the USACE Public Affairs Office at 312-846-5330, or e-mail Lake County Public Works at PublicWorks@lakecountyil.gov or call 847-377-7500.